



MySpace Initiative

Summary and Statistics of MySpace Disclosures

Attorney General Lisa Madigan

Executive Summary

During May to December, 2007, Attorney General Lisa Madigan served eight subpoenas on MySpace to obtain the names and other identifying information of registered sex offenders (“RSOs”) with profiles online. The resulting disclosures provided unprecedented insight to the widespread use of social-networking websites by RSOs in Illinois. In addition, the information has become a useful tool in enforcing the laws prohibiting Internet crimes and the laws setting probation and parole conditions for sex offenders.

MySpace is an enormously popular social-networking website that provides its users a unique opportunity to communicate, share content, pursue their hobbies – even promote commercial interests. In fact, MySpace hosts nearly 70 million unique U.S. visitors each month.¹ For that reason, Attorney General Lisa Madigan is concerned about mounting evidence that predators are taking advantage of sites like MySpace to anonymously stalk children. We have prepared this report to document RSOs’ use of MySpace and improve our understanding of the dangers children face online. Bear in mind, however, the enclosed results only account for offenders registering their true identities on MySpace; countless others may have created profiles with false names, ages, and locations.

MySpace has disclosed 2,414 member profiles that were created by Illinois’ RSOs.² The Attorney General’s office has confirmed that 1,930 of these profiles were created by 1,665 RSOs. These offenders have been convicted of serious sexual offenses, including predatory criminal sexual assault of a child, aggravated kidnapping, indecent solicitation of a child, criminal sexual assault, aggravated criminal sexual abuse, sexual exploitation of a child, and murder. MySpace has deleted profiles belonging to these identified sex offenders from its website.

From May through September, the MySpace disclosures yielded fewer RSOs with each successive subpoena (see chart on page 4). In October, however, the number of RSOs identified spiked to 213 from only 56 the previous month. Regardless, the number of parolees identified in that disclosure remained low, accounting for only 2.3% of verified profiles (see graph on page 5). The number of offenders identified remained at the higher rate in November, 145, and December, 124.

Upon further review, the data reveals some alarming trends. For example, many deleted offenders have re-registered repeatedly on MySpace. In fact, in October, the data reveals 27 offenders that had been identified and deleted previously from MySpace. Two of those offenders were deleted on 3 previous occasions. In December, 36 offenders had been identified and deleted previously – one of the offenders had been deleted on 5 occasions. In addition, 2 offenders had been deleted on 3 occasions, and 8 offenders on 2 occasions.

¹ Reena Jana, *MySpace’s New Chic Clique*, Business Week Online, August 28, 2007, available at 2007 WLNR 16774058. In addition, MySpace users have created about 180 million profiles. Tim Catts, *MySpace Boots Sex Predators*, Business Week Online, July 26, 2007, available at 2007 WLNR 14314042.

² According to MySpace, the information provided is obtained by searching its database of registered users against a national database of RSOs, named Sentinel SAFE. Sentinel SAFE enables MySpace to search for RSOs using multiple categories of information, including name, date of birth, and zip code. Potential matches are based on exact or partial matches of these factors, and then manually reviewed for accuracy.

MySpace's disclosures also reveal that many of the identified sex offenders were active MySpace participants. In November, 105 offenders logged into their MySpace member profiles on 17,260 separate occasions. In one case, a single offender accessed his MySpace profile on 813 occasions from February 14, 2007 to April 8, 2007 – 679 times in March alone. Several other offenders demonstrated similar behavior.

The information provided by MySpace proved to be a useful tool for enforcing sex offender registration laws and parole restrictions. Most significantly, the Attorney General's office assisted the Illinois Department of Corrections in its violation of 11 paroled sex offenders for accessing MySpace. In addition, investigators in the Attorney General's office discovered 240 Internet Protocol (IP) addresses used to access MySpace that previously had been detected trading child pornography on peer-to-peer networks. In one case, the investigators used IP addresses received from MySpace to locate a sex offender committing new offenses online.

The attached report provides a more in depth summary of the Attorney General's findings and analysis of the MySpace disclosures dating up to December 31, 2007.

Summary of MySpace Subpoenas

Statistics based on requests for data from May 21 – December 31, 2007

Dates of OAG Requests	Total MySpace Profiles Disclosed	OAG Verified Profiles³	Distinct Offenders Identified	Non-compliant Offenders⁴	IDOC Paroled Offenders (violated)⁵	Offenders in IDOC Custody	Total Logins to Disclosed Profiles⁶
December 2007	124	97 (78.2%)	85	3	2 (1)	2	7,562
November 2007	145	105 (72.4%)	90	3	0 (0)	0	17,260
October 2007	213	152 (71.4%)	127	2	1 (1)	2	9,270
September 2007	56	46 (82.1%)	44	1	1 (0)	1	4,001
August 2007	68	59 (86.8%)	51	3	2 (1)	0	3,566
July 2007	176	145 (82.4%)	113	1	6 (0)	5	12,917
5/21/07 to 6/30/07	788 ⁷	621 (78.8%)	510	12	13 (3)	9	113,730
Up to 5/21/07	844	705 (83.5%)	645	12	24 (5)	24	42,242
Total	2,414	1,930	1,665	37	49 (11)	43	210,548

³ The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) reviews each disclosed profile to verify that it matches a sex offender's profile in the registry. In some cases, the OAG is not able to verify a profile with a degree of certainty needed to revoke an offender for violation of parole or probation terms.

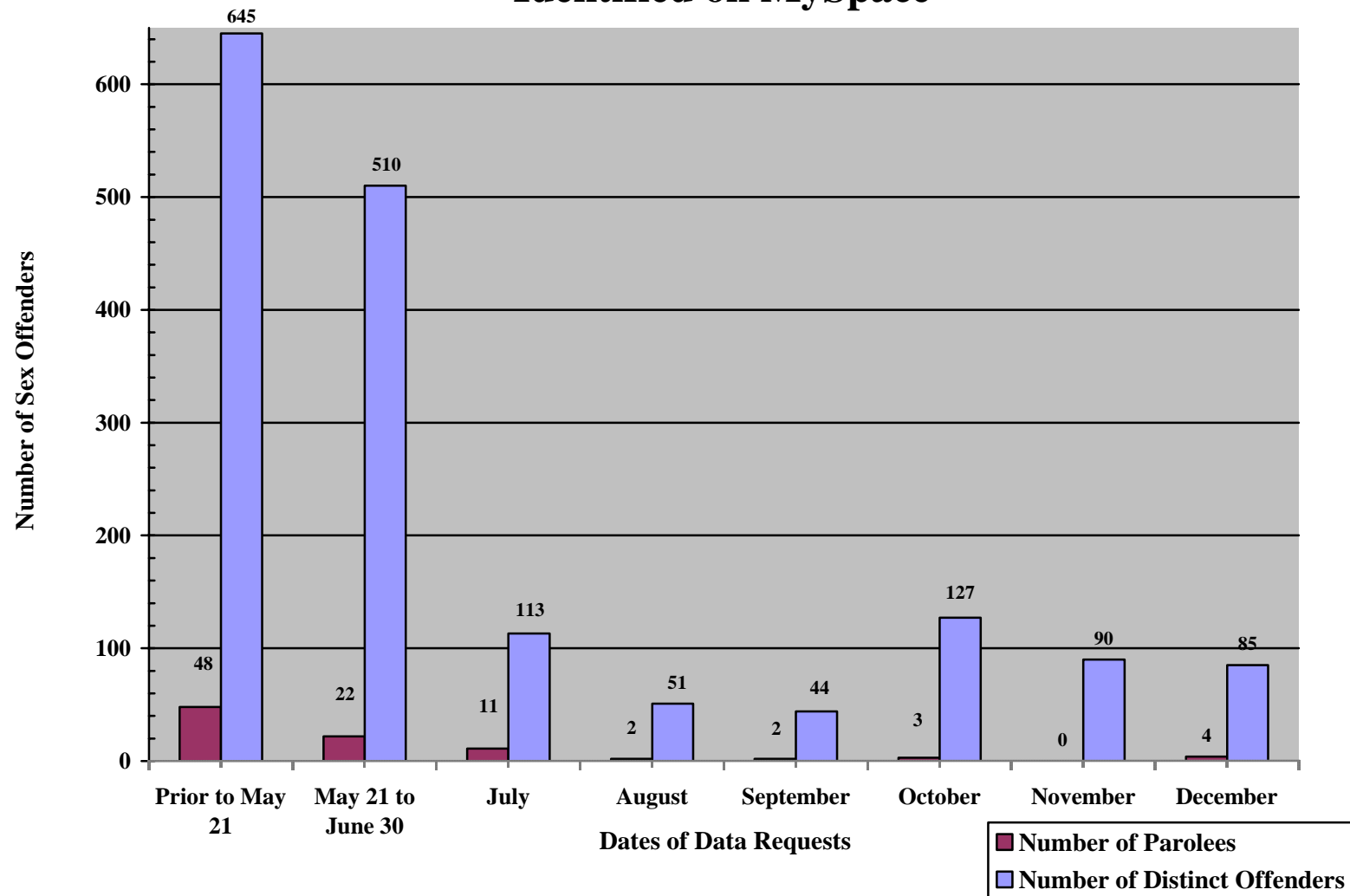
⁴ This column reflects the number of sex offenders identified on MySpace that failed to comply with provisions in the Sex Offender Registration Act.

⁵ The parenthetical reflects the number of sex offenders returned to IDOC custody as a result of their access to MySpace in violation of parole conditions prohibiting their use of the Internet and/or social-networking websites.

⁶ Total Logins include all users' access to accounts disclosed by MySpace.

⁷ This month's subpoena returns included some data overlap with the results of the previous subpoena dated May 1 to May 21, 2007. For that reason, 844 duplicates are excluded from the results of this month's subpoena totals.

Comparison of Parolees and Total Sex Offenders Identified on MySpace



MySpace Subpoena #1

Request for data from dates up to May 21, 2007
Served on May 21, 2007

SUMMARY

- **Profiles disclosed by MySpace:** 844
- **OAG verified profiles:** 705
- **Distinct offenders identified by OAG:** 645
- **Non-compliant offenders on ISOR:** 12
- **Parolees:** 48 (24 released; 24 in custody)
- **IDOC parole revocations resulting from MySpace use:** 5
- **Total Logins to Disclosed Profiles:** 42,242

HIGHLIGHTS

- Using information disclosed by MySpace, investigators from the Illinois Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC) identified 24 IP addresses that previously had been detected trading child pornography on peer-to-peer networks.
- ICAC investigators executed a search warrant based on evidence disclosed by MySpace, and arrested the suspect for prosecution in federal court.
- The counties with the most offenders using MySpace were:

▪ Cook (96 offenders)	11.4%
▪ Lake (43 offenders)	5.1%
▪ Winnebago (32 offenders)	3.8%
▪ Tazewell (31 offenders)	3.7%
▪ Rock Island (26 offenders)	3.1%
- 71 (8.4%) of the offenders were convicted out of state.

- Nature of the offenders' convictions:
 - 225 aggravated criminal sexual abuse convictions – Class 2 felony
 - 105 criminal sexual abuse convictions – Class A misdemeanor, Class 2 or Class 4 felony
 - 62 criminal sexual assault convictions – Class 1 felony
 - 30 child pornography convictions – Class 1 or Class 3
 - 10 indecent solicitation of a child convictions – Class 1, 2 or 3 felony
 - 13 predatory criminal sexual assault convictions – Class X felony
 - 8 sexual exploitation of a child convictions – Class X felony
 - 3 murder convictions – Class X felony

MySpace Subpoena #2

Request for data from May 1 – June 30, 2007

Served on July 3, 2007

SUMMARY

- **Profiles disclosed by MySpace:** 788 (May – 455; June – 333)
 - This does not include 844 duplicates from subpoena #1.
- **OAG verified profiles:** 621
- **Distinct offenders identified by OAG:** 510
- **Non-compliant offenders on ISOR:** 12
- **Parolees:** 22 (13 released; 9 in custody)
- **IDOC parole revocations resulting from MySpace use:** 3
- **Total Logins to Disclosed Profiles:** 113,730 (May – 76,466; June – 37,264)
 - This includes duplicate profiles from subpoena #1.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Many offenders created multiple MySpace profiles:
 - 1 offender had 8 profiles
 - 1 had 6 profiles
 - 3 had 5 profiles
 - 5 had 4 profiles
 - 13 had 3 profiles
 - 42 had 2 profiles
 - 65 of the 510 identified offenders had 2 or more profiles (12.8%)
 - 23 of the 510 identified offenders had 3 or more profiles (4.5%)
- An offender logged into a single MySpace profile 813 times between 2-14-07 and 4-8-07 (679 times in March alone).
- Using information disclosed by MySpace, investigators from the Illinois Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC) identified 67 IP addresses that previously had been detected trading child pornography on peer-to-peer networks.

MySpace Subpoena #3

Request for data from July 1 – 31, 2007
Served on July 31, 2007

SUMMARY

- **Profiles disclosed by MySpace:** 176
- **OAG verified profiles:** 145
- **Distinct offenders identified by OAG:** 113
- **Non-compliant offenders on ISOR:** 1
- **Parolees:** 11 (6 released; 5 in custody)
- **IDOC parole revocations resulting from MySpace use:** 0
- **Total Logins to Disclosed Profiles:** 12,917

HIGHLIGHTS

- Many offenders created multiple MySpace profiles:
 - 7 had 3 profiles
 - 17 had 2 profiles
 - 24 of the 145 identified offenders had 2 or more profiles (16.6%)
- An offender logged into a single MySpace profile 890 times during May of 2007.
- Using information disclosed by MySpace, investigators from the Illinois Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC) identified 3 IP addresses that previously had been detected trading child pornography on peer-to-peer networks.

MySpace Subpoena #4

Request for data from August 1 – August 31, 2007
Served on August 31, 2007

SUMMARY

- **Profiles disclosed by MySpace: 68**
- **OAG verified profiles: 59**
- **Distinct offenders identified by OAG: 51**
- **Non-compliant offenders on ISOR: 3**
- **Parolees: (2 released; 0 in custody)**
- **IDOC parole revocations resulting from MySpace use: 1**
- **Total Logins to Disclosed Profiles: 3,566**

HIGHLIGHTS

- Several offenders created multiple MySpace profiles:
 - 1 had 3 profiles
 - 7 had 2 profiles
- In August, MySpace deleted a single account which an offender accessed a total of 1,396 times since March of 2007:
 - 746 times in March
 - 142 times in April
 - 381 times in May
 - 50 times in June
 - 13 times in July
 - 23 times in August
- Using information disclosed by MySpace, investigators from the Illinois Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC) identified 9 IP addresses that previously had been detected trading child pornography on peer-to-peer networks.

MySpace Subpoena #5

Request for data from September 1 – September 30, 2007
Served on October 1, 2007

SUMMARY

- **Profiles disclosed by MySpace: 56**
- **OAG verified profiles: 46**
- **Distinct offenders identified by OAG: 44**
- **Non-compliant offenders on ISOR: 1**
- **Parolees: (1 released; 1 in custody)**
- **IDOC parole revocations resulting from MySpace use: 0**
- **Total Logins to Disclosed Profiles: 4,001**

HIGHLIGHTS

- An offender re-registered on MySpace using an email address with the same username but a different domain name. His first profile was deleted in May 2007, in response to the OAG's second subpoena.
- One MySpace profile has been linked to a last name and address related to a father and son – both convicted sex offenders. At this point, it is unclear whether one or both of them accessed the profile.
- Using information disclosed by MySpace, investigators from the Illinois Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC) identified 27 IP addresses that previously had been detected trading child pornography on peer-to-peer networks.

MySpace Subpoena #6

Request for data from October 1 – October 31, 2007

Served on October 31, 2007

SUMMARY

- **Profiles disclosed by MySpace: 213**
- **OAG verified profiles: 152**
- **Distinct offenders identified by OAG: 127**
- **Non-compliant offenders on ISOR: 2**
- **Parolees: (1 released; 2 in custody)**
- **IDOC parole revocations resulting from MySpace use: 1**
- **Total Logins to Disclosed Profiles: 9,270**

HIGHLIGHTS

- Several offenders created multiple MySpace profiles:
 - 1 had 4 profiles
 - 4 had 3 profiles
 - 12 had 2 profiles
- The OAG recognized 27 offenders that had been identified and deleted previously from MySpace. Two of those offenders had been deleted on 3 previous occasions.
- Using information disclosed by MySpace, investigators from the Illinois Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force identified 29 IP addresses that previously had been detected trading child pornography on peer-to-peer networks.

MySpace Subpoena #7

Request for data from November 1 – November 30, 2007
Served on December 3, 2007

SUMMARY

- **Profiles disclosed by MySpace: 145**
- **OAG verified profiles: 105**
- **Distinct offenders identified by OAG: 90**
- **Non-compliant offenders on ISOR: 3**
- **Parolees: 0**
- **IDOC parole revocations resulting from MySpace use: 0**
- **Total Logins to Disclosed Profiles: 17,260**

HIGHLIGHTS

- November is the only subpoena that did not reveal sex offenders on parole.
- In September and October, the number of profiles disclosed by MySpace rebounded after several months of steady decline. Nevertheless, the rate at which the OAG has been able to verify those profiles as belonging to sex offenders has dropped significantly, indicating that MySpace may have broadened its standards for identifying and removing sex offenders online.

In August and September, MySpace disclosed 68 and 56 profiles, respectively. In turn, the OAG was able to confirm that 59 and 46 of those profiles indeed belonged to sex offenders registered in Illinois – a rate of 86.8% and 82.1%. In comparison, MySpace provided 213 and 145 profiles in October and November, and the OAG subsequently confirmed 152 and 105 of those profiles – a rate of 71.4% and 72.4%.

- Several offenders created multiple MySpace profiles:
 - 11 had 2 profiles
 - 1 had 4 profiles

- Using information disclosed by MySpace, investigators from the Illinois Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force identified 57 IP addresses that previously had been detected trading child pornography on peer-to-peer networks.

MySpace Subpoena #8

Request for data from December 1 – 31, 2007
Served on January 2, 2008

SUMMARY

- **Profiles disclosed by MySpace: 124**
- **OAG verified profiles: 97**
- **Distinct offenders identified by OAG: 85**
- **Non-compliant offenders on ISOR: 3**
- **Parolees: 5 (2 released; 2 in custody)**
- **IDOC parole revocations resulting from MySpace use: 1**
- **Total Logins to Disclosed Profiles: 7,562**

HIGHLIGHTS

- Many offenders created multiple MySpace profiles:
 - 1 had 4 profiles
 - 10 had 4 profiles
- The OAG recognized 36 offenders that were identified and deleted previously from MySpace. One of these offenders had been deleted from MySpace on 5 previous occasions. In addition, 2 offenders had been deleted on 3 occasions, and 8 offenders on 2 occasions.
- Using information disclosed by MySpace, investigators from the Illinois Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC) identified 24 IP addresses that previously had been detected trading child pornography on peer-to-peer networks.

NUMBER OF PROFILES REGISTERED IN EACH COUNTY

By County of Offenders' Conviction

COUNTY	Dec '07	Nov '07	Oct '07	Sept '07	Aug '07	July '07	May – June '07	Prior to 5/21/07	Total
Adams	3	2	1	1	5	5	10	10	37
Alexander	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bond	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	4
Boone	0	0	2	0	1	1	1	6	11
Brown	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
Bureau	1	0	0	1	0	0	4	1	7
Calhoun	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carroll	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	4
Cass	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Champaign	1	1	2	0	1	6	9	15	35
Christian	1	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	6
Clark	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	4
Clay	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	6
Clinton	0	0	1	0	1	4	1	2	9
Coles	1	0	0	0	2	1	18	7	29
Cook	16	9	26	5	3	19	118	96	292
Crawford	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	3	6
Cumberland	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
DeKalb	1	0	0	1	1	0	7	4	14
DeWitt	0	0	1	0	0	2	4	1	8
Douglas	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	3	8
DuPage	6	2	0	1	0	1	23	20	53
Edgar	0	2	0	0	0	0	4	4	10
Edwards	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	5
Effingham	0	0	1	0	1	1	2	5	10
Fayette	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	5
Ford	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	4
Franklin	0	0	2	0	0	0	3	4	9
Fulton	0	1	3	0	0	1	8	7	20
Gallatin	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
Greene	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Grundy	0	4	1	0	0	0	3	3	11
Hamilton	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Hancock	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
Hardin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Henderson	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2

Henry	1	2	1	1	1	0	3	9	18
Iroquois	1	0	0	0	2	0	5	2	10
Jackson	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	3	7
Jasper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jefferson	2	0	0	0	1	0	5	3	11
Jersey	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Jo Daviess	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Johnson	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	4
Kane	0	3	1	2	3	4	17	17	47
Kankakee	1	3	2	0	1	1	5	7	20
Kendall	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	4
Knox	0	2	0	0	0	1	6	8	17
Lake	2	2	1	1	0	7	24	43	80
LaSalle	3	6	7	4	4	5	8	17	54
Lawrence	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2
Lee	1	0	1	0	0	3	2	5	12
Livingston	4	3	4	5	0	2	8	7	33
Logan	2	1	5	0	0	1	2	5	16
Macon	3	2	2	4	0	0	15	8	34
Macoupin	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	5	7
Madison	2	4	7	1	1	6	26	21	68
Marion	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	4
Marshall	1	0	1	0	0	0	4	1	7
Mason	1	0	0	1	0	1	5	6	14
Massac	0	2	1	0	1	0	1	0	5
McDonough	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
McHenry	3	3	1	6	0	5	7	5	30
McLean	1	1	2	3	1	7	11	18	44
Menard	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Mercer	1	2	2	0	1	2	2	4	14
Monroe	0	1	1	0	0	1	5	1	9
Montgomery	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Morgan	0	0	1	0	0	0	5	3	9
Moultrie	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	4
Ogle	1	1	1	0	0	0	6	6	15
Out-of-State	8	10	15	3	10	13	69	71	199
Peoria	5	4	2	0	1	6	20	20	58
Perry	0	0	0	0	0	1	7	1	9
Piatt	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	5
Pike	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Pope	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1

Pulaski	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Putnam	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	4
Randolph	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Richland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Rock Island	3	3	1	0	5	7	8	26	53
Saline	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	4	7
Sangamon	3	0	4	0	0	0	7	12	26
Schuyler	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scott	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Shelby	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	4	8
Stark	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Clair	0	2	3	0	0	0	9	15	29
Stephenson	2	1	2	0	1	4	11	12	33
Tazewell	5	9	10	0	1	6	18	31	80
Union	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Vermillion	0	3	2	1	0	2	4	14	26
Wabash	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Warren	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	4	8
Washington	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	4	8
Wayne	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
White	2	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	6
Whiteside	1	1	1	0	1	0	5	5	14
Will	2	3	2	0	3	2	12	21	45
Williamson	0	2	3	0	1	0	1	1	8
Winnebago	1	0	5	1	2	6	16	32	63
Woodford	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	5